R E M A R K S

Claims 1-27 remain in the application.

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 and 15 are proposed to be amended to clarify the language of the claims to place them in better form for appeal. These proposed amendments, submitted after final rejection, do not raise new issues requiring additional consideration or search, so that entry of the Amendment is believed to be proper notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action. Accordingly, entry and full consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

Preliminary Issues

Applicants request that the following issues be attended to:

- Affirmatively indicate acceptance of the formal drawings.
- Enter the new correspondence address (see January 13, 2005 Change of Address)
- Amend the attorney docket number (see January 13, 2005 Amendment, and above).
- Consider the IDSs submitted on August 23, 2005 and August 25, 2005.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-19, 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,747,968 (Seppala) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,61 1 (van der Tuijn), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,576 (Alimi). These three references were further combined with U.S. Patent No. 6,760,318 (Bims) to reject the remaining dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, submitting that the claims, even before the foregoing amendment, patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Applicants incorporate their January 13, 2005 *Remarks* by reference as being applicable to the claims as presently pending. The examiner is referred to those *Remarks* to refresh recollection of the nature and advantages of the invention.

Applicants thank the examiner for clarifying his position, on pages 3 and 17-18 of the June 30, 2005 final Office Action.

Preliminarily, Applicants explain that there was no expectation that the absence of the text string "poll" was, in and of itself, conclusive proof of the absence in a reference of any teaching of the claimed multipoll frame. The text search was mentioned only in support of the distinction, further argued in the January 13, 2005 *Remarks*, between Applicants' claimed multipoll scheme and van der Tuijn's TDMA arrangement.

Claims 1 and 15 are amended be in better form for appeal, and not to introduce or remove any substantive limitations. In particular, the word "station" is inserted into Claim 1 to correct a clerical omission. The phrase "from the PC station" is merely moved closer to the verb. Other amendments change "information relating to…" into a form that uses the active verbs "allocating" and "identifying."

The final portion of independent Claim 1, indicative of corresponding limitations in independent Claim 15, now recites:

> sending *from the PC station* a multipoll frame allocating at least two
> TOs and identifying each respective allocated TO by:
> > d1) a duration time; and
> > d1) one of a virtual stream identifier (VSID) and an association
> identifier (AID).   (emphasis added)

One embodiment of this recitation is shown in Applicants' FIG. 12a, in which a multipoll frame (*above* the horizontal timeline) precedes five successive transmission opportunities (TOs; *below* the horizontal timeline). Applicants' FIG. 12b shows how POLL RECORD(S) include at least one pair of AID/VSID and TO DURATION fields.

Essentially, as has been recited in the independent claims even before the present amendment, the PC station sends a multipoll frame to allocate TOs among competing non-PC stations, identifying non-PC stations by either a TO duration time or one of a VSID or AID. The number, arrangement, and occupancy of TOs is variable, and is defined by the multipoll frame.

Applicant now discusses the final rejection, focusing on the van der Tuijn *et al.* reference that is cited for its alleged teaching of the claimed multipoll frame.

FIG. 2 of the van der Tuijn *et al.* patent shows a DECT (Digital Enhanced/European Cordless Telecommunications) frame. The FIG. 2 frame has a substantially rigid architecture,

the Office Action noting a multiframe 32 includes sixteen frames 34, each frame having twenty-four, ten-millisecond slots 50. Page 18 of the final Office Action equates the slots with the claimed transmission opportunities (TOs), asserting that either data or control information can be communicated.

Significantly, page 3 of the final Office Action asserts that the frame structure shown in van der Tuijn's Fig. 2 represents the claimed multipoll frame. Applicants firmly disagree with this interpretation. Applicants submit that van der Tuijn's FIG. 2 merely shows a conventional TDMA frame, and, as such, merely shows the sequence by which different *non*-PC stations communicate information. FIG. 2 and its accompanying text do not disclose or suggest the manner in which TOs are allocated by a *PC station*. Indeed, the rigidity of the DECT frame, mentioned above, indicates that the frames are established by an industry standard and are not dynamically assigned by a multipoll frame sent from a *PC station*.

In any event, FIG. 2 does not show a multipoll frame *sent from a PC station* as specifically claimed. Applicants emphasize that the multipoll frame is sent *before* a series of TOs (see Applicants' FIG. 12a). Emphatically, a multipoll frame *does not constitute* the series of TOs itself, as appears to be the misapprehension underlying the final rejection.

Thus, van der Tuijn *et al.* may disclose something that meets a broad interpretation of a TO, but is silent concerning *a multipoll frame, sent from a PC station, that allocates the TOs and specifies certain identifying information for each allocated TO.* Indeed, given the predetermined nature of a DECT frame, the van der Tuijn *et al.* patent actually teaches away from a multipoll frame from a PC station.

In view of this crucial distinction, Applicants submit that the claims, even as pending before the present amendment, clearly distinguished over the van der Tuijn *et al.* patent. Inasmuch as the other references are not cited for teachings relevant to multipoll frames, Applicants submit that the final rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are again respectfully requested.
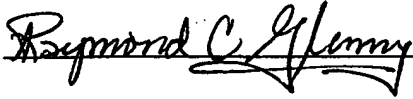
Conclusion

All objections and rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any

questions arise, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 12, 2005

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